IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for rescoring N-best hypotheses of an automatic speech recognition system, the method steps comprising:

generating a synthetic waveform for each of N text sequences representing the N-best hypotheses output from a speech recognition system;

comparing each synthetic waveform with an original waveform decoded by the speech recognition system to determine the synthetic waveform that is closest to the original waveform; and

selecting for output the text sequence corresponding to the synthetic waveform determined to be closest to the original waveform.

9. (Amended) A method for rescoring N-best hypotheses of an automatic speech recognition system, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a synthetic waveform for each of N text sequences representing the N-best hypotheses output from a speech recognition system;

comparing each synthetic waveform with an original waveform decoded by the speech recognition system to determine the synthetic waveform that is closest to the original waveform; and

selecting for output the text sequence corresponding to the synthetic waveform determined to be closest to the original waveform.